

Serial No. 09/936,312

Attorney Docket No. 99M006

REMARKS***Summary of Status of Amendments and Office Action***

Claim 1 is herein amended to incorporate the restriction of claim 2. Claim 2 is accordingly cancelled and claim 3 is amended to depend from the amended claim 1. Claims 12 and 18 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of the preceding claims. Claims 1, 12, and 18 are independent. New claims 19 and 20 are added to combine the limitation of former claim 2 with amended claims 12 and 18. No new matter is believed to have been added through these amendments.

Claims 1 through 18 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 6, 7, 9 through 11, and 13 through 17 presently stand rejected; and claims 2 through 5, 8, 12, and 18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Response to the Rejection of Claims 1, 6, 7, 9 through 11, and 14 through 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 6, 7, 9 through 11, and 14 through 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 97/33684.

It is respectfully submitted that the present amendment to claim 1 renders this rejection moot, and the Examiner is accordingly requested to withdraw the rejection.

Response to the Rejection of Claims 13 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 97/33684, and claim 13 is rejected over WO 97/33684 in combination with US 5,763,347.

It is submitted that this rejection is also rendered moot by the present amendments to the claims. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the current rejection.

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Response to the Objection to Claims 2 through 5, 8, 12, and 18

Claims 2 through 5, 8, 12, and 18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to claims 1 through 3, 12, and 18 fully address this objection.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons advanced above, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims patentably define Applicants' invention. Entry of this Amendment and allowance of the application is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner have any further comments or questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

January 26, 2004

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